Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of the Claims:

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) An intra-oral camera for producing a picture of an intra-oral object wherein the intra-oral object may include a tooth of a dental patient, the intra-oral camera comprising:

a camera (44) operable to take a picture of the intra-oral object once the camera has been oriented in a proper picture taking position relative to the intra-oral object, the camera being operable to capture sight information relating to the intra-oral object;

a pinpoint light source for irradiating the intra-oral object with a pinpoint light beam, the pinpoint light source comprising at least one laser diode that projects a light point onto the tooth of the dental patient and the camera (44) provides sight information relating to the light properties of the light coming from the intra-oral object in response to the irradiation thereof by the light point projected on the intra-oral object by the laser diode; and

indicating means (26) operable to evaluate sight information relating to the light property of one of the laser diodes and to indicate that the camera (44) has substantially assumed the proper picture taking position relative to the intra-oral object as soon as the camera has either been focused or has been properly aimed, ~~A camera according to claim 6, wherein~~ the indicating means (26) [[is]] being operable to subdivide a selected selectively cropped camera frame portion relating to the sight information into subdivisions and to evaluate a raster formed by such subdivisions by comparing the light properties of various fields of the raster and thereby determine whether the camera (44) has substantially assumed the proper picture taking position relative to the intra-oral object.

11. (Currently amended) An intra-oral camera for producing a picture of an intra-oral object wherein the intra-oral object may include a tooth of a dental patient, the intra-oral camera comprising:

a camera (44) operable to take a picture of the intra-oral object once the camera has been oriented in a proper picture taking position relative to the intra-oral object, the camera being operable to capture sight information relating to the intra-oral object;

a pinpoint light source for irradiating the intra-oral object with a pinpoint light beam; and

indicating means (26) for indicating that the camera (44) has substantially assumed the proper picture taking position relative to the intra-oral object for the taking of a picture of the intra-oral object, the indicating means (26) being operable to evaluate at least one of sight information relating to the intra-oral object and light, captured by the camera (44), which comprises light coming from the intra-oral object in response to the irradiation thereof by the pinpoint light source and to provide an indication that the camera (44) has substantially assumed the proper picture taking position relative to the intra-oral object based upon such evaluation, ~~A camera according to claim 1,~~ wherein the indicating means (26) is operable to subdivide a selected selectively cropped camera frame portion relating to the sight information into subdivisions, wherein the selectively cropped frame portion is at least 10 times smaller than the sight information and the indicating means (26) is operable to subdivide the selected selectively cropped camera frame portion into a point symmetric number of subdivided fields collectively forming a raster mass and the indicating means (26) is operable to evaluate the raster mass by capturing and comparing with one another at least one of parameters and light properties of the various adjacent ones of the fields of the raster mass and to thereby determine whether the camera (44) has substantially assumed the proper picture taking position relative to the intra-oral object.

12-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for producing a picture of an intra-oral object wherein the intra-oral object may include a tooth of a dental patient, the method comprising:

providing an intra-oral camera and a pinpoint light source;

orienting the camera (44) to take a picture of the intra-oral object, the camera being operable to capture sight information relating to the intra-oral object;

optionally as needed, adjusting the orientation of the pinpoint light source relative to the intra-oral object such that the intra-oral object will be irradiated by a light beam from the pinpoint light source as the camera (44) is actuated to take a picture of the intra-oral object; and

indicating, in response to an evaluation of at least one of sight information relating to the intra-oral object and light, captured by the camera (44), which comprises light coming from the intra-oral object in response to the irradiation thereof by the pinpoint light source, that the camera (44) has substantially assumed a proper picture taking position relative to the intra-oral object for the taking of a picture of the intra-oral object ~~A method according to claim 12,~~ and further comprising:

subdividing a selected selectively cropped camera frame portion relating to the sight information into subdivisions, wherein the subdivisions form the fields of a raster,

thereafter indicating that the camera (44) has generally assumed a proper picture taking position relative to the intra-oral object,

thereafter comparing with one another the light properties of the various fields of the raster, and

thereafter indicating, via marking of the central fields of the raster, that the camera (44) has substantially assumed the proper picture taking position relative to the intra-oral object.